

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 21 and 22 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 1 to read as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below.

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1. (Currently amended) A printing apparatus for printing on a printing medium using a printhead, comprising:

an interface which is connected to a host and receives information from the host;

a memory for storing characteristic information of the printhead;

discriminating means for discriminating whether or not a command sent from the host based on information inputted to the host from any of a plurality of input means is a command including the characteristic information of the printhead;

confirmation means for confirming whether or not the command including the characteristic information of the printhead discriminated by said discriminating means is valid;

write control means for controlling to write the characteristic information of the printhead into said memory ~~in accordance with a discrimination result of said~~

discriminating means in a case that said confirmation means confirms that the command is valid; and

printing control means for controlling the printhead to print in accordance with the characteristic information written into said memory.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the characteristic information includes type information of the printhead, and  
  
said write control means controls to write the characteristic information of the printhead for each type of printhead.

3. (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printhead is detachable from a printing apparatus main body, and is attached to said printing apparatus after being selected from among plural types of printheads by a user.

4. (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said discriminating means includes means for receiving a command outputted from the host to which the characteristic information of the printhead indicated on the printhead or an accessory of the printhead in a format identifiable by a human or an electronic device is inputted by a man-machine interactive operation or the electronic device.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printhead is an inkjet printhead for printing by discharging ink.

6. (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the inkjet printhead comprises an electrothermal transducer for generating heat energy to be applied to ink so as to discharge the ink by utilizing the heat energy.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said memory includes an EEPROM.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the command sent from the host is a command outputted from the host which is externally instructed or receives an instruction.

9. (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the format identifiable by a human is at least one of a digit and a character string.

10. (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the format identifiable by an electronic device is a barcode.

11. (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the indication in a format identifiable by a human or an electronic device is a described, adhered or formed indication.

12. (Previously amended) A printing system including a printing apparatus according to claim 1, and a host connecting to the printing apparatus and capable of communicating with a second system via a network, said host comprising:

input means for inputting individual information of a printhead indicated on the printhead or an accessory of the printhead in a format identifiable by a human or an electronic device via man-machine interactive operation or the electronic device;

retrieve means for accessing the second system via the network on the basis of the individual information of the printhead inputted by said input means, and retrieving characteristic information of the printhead corresponding to the individual information of the printhead; and

transfer means for transferring the characteristic information of the printhead retrieved by said retrieve means to the printing apparatus.

13. (Original) The printing system according to claim 12, wherein the network includes a LAN or Internet.

14. (Previously amended) The printing system according to claim 12, wherein the individual information of the printhead is a production number of the printhead.

15. (Original) The printing system according to claim 12, wherein said second system has a database in which information is retrievable via the network, and

the database holds characteristic information of the printhead corresponding to the individual information of the printhead.

16. (Previously amended) The printing system according to claim 12, wherein the format identifiable by a human is at least one of a digit and a character string.

17. (Original) The printing system according to claim 16, wherein said input means inputs said at least one of the digit and character string by the man-machine interactive operation.

18. (Previously amended) The printing system according to claim 12, wherein the format identifiable by the electronic device is a barcode.

19. (Original) The printing system according to claim 18, wherein the electronic device is a barcode reader.

20. (Previously amended) The printing system according to claim 12, wherein the indication in a format identifiable by a human or an electronic device is a described, adhered or formed indication.

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Claims 21 and 22 (cancelled)